Growth of food processing industry

1327. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food processing industries have made good progress during the last two years;

(b) if so, the growth rate, State-wise;

(c) whether there are still some States where food processing industry is yet to make any progress;

(d) if so, what are those States: and

(e) the details of steps taken to remove the regional imbalances and develop food processing in every State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (e) Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors and information in respect of all processed food industries State-wise is not maintained centrally. Food processing industries also cover various segments. However, the growth rate of production in fruit and vegetable products was 30.28% in the year 1992-93 and 23.66% in the year 1993-94. During the same period Milk products in the organised sector grew at about 8·5% and 8% respectively. Growth rate of soft drinks at 8% and that of beer averaged 10—15% during the period. Although the overall growth of cocoa products grew by 0.25% and 1.2% during the period, growth of chocolate has been negative.

While some States have made considerable progress, states in the North-Eastern Region, Bihar, Orissa, Jammu & Kashmir are lagging behind. Govt. is encouraging investment in Food Processing Sectors by assisting setting up of Food Processing Industries in the above states.

Joint R&D potential for food processing with US

1328. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists a vast potential for joint R & D efforts in the food processing industry between India and the United States of America; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to tap the potential for growth of food processing industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has recently undertaken an Indo-US research project supported through US-India Fund and are also open to taking up similar projects in future as and when offers of suitable opportunities are received.

Creation of a network of food processing industries around Delhi

1329. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any project for the development of vegetable, horticulture, floriculture, mushroom cultivation, poultry, fishery and dairy in the areas around Delhi falling in the territory of Haryana, UP and Rajasthan, to cater the national need and to export these commodities; if not, whether Government would consider this suggestion; and